(b) if so, the cause of accidet and whether any enquiry has been made in this regard;

(c) how many people lost their lives and how many injured;

(d) the compensation amount paid by Government to the kith and kin of the dead; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHAREEF): (a) On 31-12-94, 6529 Dn. Bombay VT. Bangalore City Udyan Express derailed between Yelahanka and Chennasandra stations on the Dharmavaram-Bangalore City section of Bangalore Division of Southern Railway.

(b) The final report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, who investigated the cause of the accident, is awaited.

(c) In this accident, 8 persons lost their lives and 21 persons were grievously injured. 27 persons also suffered trivial injuries.

(d) Payment of compensation to the dependents of killed and injured will be arranged on receipt of judgement and decree of Railway Claims Tribunal, Bangalore. However, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1,00,250/- has already been paid to the families of killed and to the injured passengers.

(e) The following safety measures have been taken to arrest accidents:—

(i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years active driving service have been specially screened and deficient drivers given out-of-course crash training.

(ii) 40,000 station staff have also been subjected to an out-of course scheening and deficient staff were imparted non-scheduled safety training.

(iii) Instant Action Groups have been launched on certain nominated trains to chck entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches or persons carrying inflammable/explosive material.

(iv) Regular counselling of staff is done to prevent accidents.

(v) Stringent action, to the extent of 'dismissal' or 'removal' from service, is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.

(vi) The elimination of collisions has been made as one of the mission areas for the General Managers of the Railways.

(vii) Nearly 60,000 of staff attended Safety Camps and refresher training courses during the last one year.

(viii) Overdue track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated.

(ix) 500 unmannend level crossings are being manned at a cost of Rs. 25 crores.

(x) The track circuiting works on Rajdhani and Shatabdi routes have been speeded up.

(xi) Carriage and wagon examination of rolling stock has been strengthened and rationalised.

Upgradation of suburban railway services

538. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the suburban railway sys-

tem of some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of States and Union Territories to be brought under this purview, with the background for such move;

(c) whether any advantage will be available to travelling public with this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any estimated cost and target has been fixed for this upgradation;

(f) if so, the details thereof State and Union Territory-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Government also propose to undertake upgradation of suburban services of Andhra Pradesh in future; and

(h) if so, the details thereof with estimated cost and time involved and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Strengthening and upgradation of the existing rail network in the suburban areas of various States and Territories is a continuous process and is done on the basis of need and priority depending on the availability of the resources. There is no specific programme or project on hand to upgrade suburban railway system of any particular area.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) There is no specific plan for upgradation of suburban services of Andhra Pradesh. However, gauge conversion of Secunderabad-Mehboobnagar section has already been commissioned and certain suburban services had been converted to DMU push-pull services.

(h) Does not arise.

बिहार में साहेब गंज जमालपुर के बीच रेल लाइनों का दोहरीकरण

539. **श्री जनार्दन यादव :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार की बिहार में साहेबगंज–जमालपुर के बीच पड़ने वाली सुरंग को तोड़कर दोहरी रेल लाइन बिछाने की कोई योजना है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह कार्य कब तक शुरू हो जायेगा; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी.के.जाफ़र शरीफ़) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) इस लाइन पर अभी इतना यातायात नहीं हुआ है जिससे इसके दोहरीकरण का औचित्य बने ।

Modernisation of Railway Stations in the country

540. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to modernise and develop the Railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the division/zone wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Modernisation and development of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by traffic needs. Stations, where such works are to be taken up, are selected by each Railway Division, every year, through their annual Work Progra-